

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 493

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Senior Pastor Dr. John Jno Finn on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we should honor those individuals who have answered a divine call to the ministry and who have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, Senior Pastor Dr. John Jno Finn of Faith, Hope & Love Fellowship Church in Nashville is one such venerable individual, who has inspired the faithful as a pastor for twenty-seven years; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Finn will soon retire from the pulpit as an active pastor, having evinced an unwavering commitment of service to the people whose spiritual lives he guided throughout his vibrant ministry; and

WHEREAS, born on the Caribbean Island of Dominica, Dr. Finn attended the Dominica Teachers' College and taught in his home country for ten years before relocating to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, in 1980, when he began working as an assistant principal while concurrently matriculating at the University of the Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, he migrated to the United States to further his education; after completing his studies, he returned to Dominica in 1995 and served as a senator in the Government of Dominica for two years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Finn went on to found Faith, Hope & Love Fellowship Church in Nashville nearly three decades ago; since that time he has worked tirelessly to fulfill God's mandate on his life to take the ministry to another level, driven by the conviction that "Everybody is Somebody of Value"; and

WHEREAS, as part of his work at the church, Dr. Finn established an online school called Faith, Hope & Love University, where people are trained for ministry; through this school, students can be licensed and ordained to perform ministerial duties, functions, and positions. The school has enrolled students from several countries, including the United States, Virgin Islands, Tortola, and Dominica; and

WHEREAS, in addition to serving as senior pastor of the church, he has also worked as a professor and the director of continuing education at American Baptist College, where he provided leadership for thirty-seven extension schools—three in Africa and thirty-four in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Finn directed a \$1-million grant from the Lily Foundation to increase theological knowledge at the local church level; he also worked as an adjunct professor at Tennessee State University, in which capacity he taught graduate-level courses in education with a specialty in multicultural education and supervised student teachers in the university's teacher education program; and

WHEREAS, he has also served as editor in chief for the National Baptist Publishing Board, one of the oldest African American publishing companies in America, as well as a counselor with the State of Tennessee and director of Day Treatment Services at Centerstone Community Mental Health Centers in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, an entrepreneur and CEO of his own publishing company, Broma Publishing House, Dr. Finn has published extensively on a wide range of spiritual and educational topics; and

WHEREAS, John Jno Finn holds a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University, Doctor of Theology and Master of Education degrees from Tennessee State University, a Bachelor of Theology degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree from American Baptist College, and a Diploma in Education from the University of the West Indies; and

WHEREAS, although he is retiring as senior pastor, his work will continue as he endeavors to provide spiritual leadership, covering and directing several churches and congregations in America, the Caribbean, and Africa. Some of the pressing things on his heart are to provide housing for the disadvantaged, a daycare/school, and a multi-purpose facility for the community; and

WHEREAS, throughout his many years of service to others through education and ministry, Dr. Finn has been blessed with the love and support of his family—his wife of forty-three years, Judith, and their seven children and fourteen grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, a true shepherd of the flock, Pastor Finn has an abiding love for the ministry; his many positive contributions to his church, his community, and this State are deeply appreciated, and it is wholly fitting that he be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Senior Pastor Dr. John Jno Finn on the occasion of his retirement and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.